



August 14, 2012

Michelle K. Shouse, Biologist
USGS - Delta Science
Pacific Southwest Area
Sacramento, CA 95819

Dear Ms. Shouse:

I am writing this letter in support of the 2012 Brown Nichols Science Award nomination of Dr. Katharyn Boyer of San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies. Professor Boyer's work is broadly interested in the ecology of coastal habitats, with a focus on tidal marshes and submerged aquatic vegetation. Her highly applied research has provided insights into how to better restore and preserve natural places within the San Francisco Bay. Research from her lab is responsible for better understanding of native submerged aquatics in the San Francisco Bay delta, has driven improved practices for eelgrass restoration in the San Francisco Bay, and has led to recognition of a new highly invasive plant in San Francisco Bay marshes.

I have been exceptionally lucky to have Dr. Boyer as my graduate advisor at San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center. Dr. Boyer is a rare individual in that she can both fully engage in the scientific process and excel at teaching others. She supports, encourages, and mentors her students allowing them to achieve. She is highly curious and engaged in her research, and she encourages us students to approach our research with similar zeal. Professor Boyer's enthusiasm for her work is never more evident than when she has field visits to her sites. She is the first person to dive into the water at a field site. After this, she works tirelessly and with a joy that is contagious.

I have also been fortunate to work with Professor Boyer in a profession capacity at the Invasive *Spartina* Project. Professor Boyer is a member of an advisory board to this project. From this experience, I have learned much about the best ways to interact with work colleges. Professor Boyer is able to build consensus, ask tough questions, and foster an environment of respect. She manages to both be engaged and remain above the fray.

In short, I have grown tremendously from having Professor Boyer as a mentoring force in my life. She has affirmed my love of science and given me confidence to pursue my goals. I believe the San Francisco Bay community is lucky to have her as a steward.

Whitney Thornton
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